



KIDS DON'T FLOAT!

The Kids Don't Float program is a grass-roots effort to reduce drowning among children and youth. The KDF program is ideal for the spontaneous boater who forgot their child's jacket at home or has an additional child along for the trip. The KDF program is not designed to take away the responsibility of every boater, adult or child, from supplying and wearing their own life jacket.

Challenges: Every KDF site sponsor will face the challenge of keeping an adequate supply of life jackets for their board(s). Each site sponsor must seek community donations and support, as the main program sponsors cannot supply new jackets for every board every year.

Support: Program sponsors, primarily the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Office of Boating Safety, plan to purchase a limited number of life jackets for active Kids Don't Float loaner boards for the upcoming boating season. The Seventeenth Coast Guard District and the State Section of Community Health and Emergency Medical Services, Injury Surveillance and Prevention Unit, purchases PFD's when funds are available.

Boating Safety is promoted 110% through the 17th Coast Guard Distrust. The Coast Guard prints and distributes the loaner board signs and manuals.

The State Injury Surveillance and Prevention Unit, provide administrative support and compile/update the master list of KDF sites. Between sites and other supporters this unit tries to increase communication through surveys, letters and home webpage.

http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/chems/injury_prevention/kids_dont_float.htm

Be a Part of The Kids Don't Float Program!

Joining the Kids Don't Float program is easy. Simple review the following process steps. After joining, you will receive a set of lifejackets, a 2x4ft adhesive sign decal, and a packet with program information (a set of lifejackets currently contains 2 infant, 3 child, 3 youth, and 3 adult PFDs). Your group will be responsible to establish the site, which includes building a loaner board, PFD box, or similar station that makes the PFDs readily available and yet protects them from the harsh Alaska weather.

Kids Don't Float Sign-up Process:

1. Identify a location that you think needs a lifejacket loaner station.
2. Organize/designate a group who would like to sponsor the site.
3. Decide how you would establish the site, the display design you want to use, and how you will monitor the site to check/replace PFDs.
4. Designate a contact person for the group.
5. Join the program through the KDF sign-up form online.
6. Receive PFDs, sign, and construct the loaner site.
7. Provide feedback at least once per year through the KDF site survey.
8. Notify us as soon as possible if any one's life has been saved as a result of the program, with any details that you can obtain.
9. Provide information to the program if the program becomes inactive or if the sponsorship or contact person changes.

Kids Don't Float Site Renewal/Update:

1. Fill out the online form with updated information or requests for additional PFDs, signs, or other program materials.
2. **Remember that it is very important to provide feedback, lives saved, new site sponsors, and if sites become inactive!**